

THE 321ST INFANTRY

ment contained some promising athletic material. Company F won first place in the meet.

The 321st also contained some good officer material. Thirty-four men from the regiment reported to the Third Officers' Training School at its opening, January 5, 1918, and thirty-two reported to the Fourth Officers' Training School which opened May 20, 1918.

Ex-President Taft favored the camp with his presence, January 29, 1918, reviewed the 81st Division in the afternoon and addressed the men that night in Liberty Theater.

The 321st was selected to parade as an honor regiment in Columbia during the Washington Birthday celebration, February 22, 1918.

Although the 81st Division was one of the first National Army divisions to be organized, it was not to be one of the first sent to France. This was evident as early as October 12, 1917, when at least 50 per cent. of the men in the division were transferred to regular army divisions, principally to the 30th. For more than a month there were hardly enough men in a battalion to form a full company. A continual transfer of men from the 81st during the winter and spring of 1918 kept the ranks of the division depleted. It looked as though the 81st was destined to be a depot division.

But during May 11-18, 1918, the 81st was moved to Camp Sevier, and the tide turned.